Senate Select Committee on Children and Youth with Special Needs

Written Testimony by the Department of Developmental Services

April 4, 2016

1. How does the Department define interagency care coordination and the role of the Department in engaging in interagency care coordination with other state departments and agencies?

*The Lanterman Developmental Disabilities Services Act created a unique system in California of 21 local non-profit regional centers, whereby individuals with developmental disabilities and their families could access services locally. Regional centers provide intake and assessment, lifelong program planning, assist in accessing needed services and purchase needed services not funded by other agencies. The Department of Developmental Services (DDS) contracts with the 21 regional centers to provide case management services to eligible individuals. Regional centers coordinate with other state and local agencies to ensure the availability of needed resources and to address any potential gaps in care. Because regional centers provide local assistance to families, DDS’ role is one of oversight and state-level policy and coordination.*

*DDS has fostered positive, collaborative relationships with each of our sister departments and agencies. DDS engages with other state departments and agencies when there are shared issues to resolve, transitions of services, or state-level coordination is needed for any reason.*

1. How does the Department coordinate with other state departments and agencies in the delivery of care and services for children with special needs and their families; please provide MOUs when available?

*As noted above, regional centers provide case management services and coordinate care across agencies. Although DDS does not have MOUs with any state departments or agencies, we work with these entities on joint regulations, policy issues, transitions of services, program advisories, and any other matter that has statewide implications.*

1. Please list the interagency care coordination activities and relationships currently underway by the Department for children and youth with special needs and how these activities are funded, specifically the funding source and estimated monetary figure allocation?

*All of the collaborations below are staffed by DDS staff and do not have separate funding, unless otherwise noted.*

* *Interagency Coordinating Council for Early Intervention, which includes representatives from the Department of Health Care Services, Department of Social Services and the Department of Education. The Interagency Coordinating Council also includes service providers, family members and other community representatives. Cost to DDS is a maximum of $50,000 annually.*
* *Behavioral Health Treatment: DDS has been working with the Department of Health Care Services to transition Behavioral Health Treatment Services for individuals under 21 years old to Medi-Cal.*
* *State Interagency Team (SIT): DDS participates in the State Interagency Team for Children, Youth and Families chaired by the Department of Social Services. The SIT brings together representatives from various departments with representatives from Education, Public Health, Health Care Services, Mental Health, Alcohol and Drug Programs, Corrections and Rehabilitation, and Employment Development, as well as the Emergency Management Agency, the Workforce Investment Board and the Administrative Office of the Courts. The SIT’s purpose is to provide leadership and guidance to facilitate full county implementation of improved systems for the benefit of communities and the common population of children, youth and families.*
* *Blueprint for Competitive Integrated Employment: Over the past 14 months, DDS has worked closely with the Departments of Rehabilitation and Education to develop a blueprint that will be completed within the next few months. Additionally, legislation chaptered in the second extraordinary session (ABX2 1, AB 3, Statutes of 2016) appropriated $20 million to improve outcomes for competitive integrated employment for individuals with developmental disabilities.*
* *Workforce Innovation and Opportunities Act: DDS is partnering with the Department of Rehabilitation on the implementation of WIOA.*
* *Paid Internships: ABX2 1 also authorized DDS to implement a paid internship program to increase employment outcomes for individuals with developmental disabilities. DDS is working with stakeholders to shape this program, which we will implement early next fiscal year.*
* *California Youth Leadership Forum for Students with Disabilities: DDS staff assists with annual conference planning and administration. DDS also provides an annual grant of $5000 to fund student participation.*
* *First 5 California: DDS works with First 5 California on activities that will benefit individuals we serve jointly.*
* *Licensing of community services: DDS works closely with the Department of Social Services (DSS) to help facilitate timely licensing of services for individuals with developmental disabilities of all ages. Through the budgetary process, DDS secured funding to pay for an additional position for DSS, to assist with the licensure of services to accommodate individuals moving to the community from state developmental centers.*
* *Regulations: DDS has been working with DSS on joint regulations on new models of care to serve individuals with challenging service needs in the community.*
1. Does the Department share resources with other departments and agencies to support interagency care coordination activities for children with special needs; if so please provide examples?

*Please see responses to question #3.*